



News Release

USDA Forest Service
Cibola National Forest and Grasslands
Sandia Ranger District
11776 Highway 337 ■ Tijeras NM 87059



For Immediate Release

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Update on the Piedra Fire

Tijeras, NM – May 3, 2013. 1:00 p.m. Significant progress has been made on the Piedra fire, which started on May 2, 2013. The 30-acre fire is approximately 50 percent contained. The fire is burning in ponderosa pine and fir in an area that has bark beetle damage. In addition, the Tower fires in the Juan Tabo/Tramway area are out. The cause of the fires is under investigation.

Favorable weather conditions – including cooler temperatures, light winds and higher humidity will help in suppression efforts.

Currently, there are 95 firefighters and support staff assigned to the fire, including a 20-person hand crew from the New Mexico State Forestry's Veteran Fire Crew Pilot Program. Hotshot crews from the Santa Fe and Carson National Forests and a 10-person module from BIA remain on the fire. A type I helicopter and a type III helicopter continue to make bucket drops. Two air tankers and two air support modules are also at the fire.

The Bureau of Land Management, Southern Pueblos Agency, Sandia Pueblo, Bureau of Indian Affairs, City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo and Sandoval County Fire Departments, Bernalillo and Sandoval County Sheriff's Departments and the State of New Mexico are providing support.

To protect the public, the Loop Road/Watershed is closed, as is the Piedra Lisa trail at both the north and south ends. Although much of the Sandia Mountains are open for recreational activities, please use extreme caution and maintain situational awareness when you're in the area. Both the Sandia and the Mountainair Ranger Districts are in Stage I fire restrictions. In Stage I fire restrictions, fires can only be made in Forest Service provided metal fire rings or using an Underwriter Laboratory approved stove that has a shut-off valve.

Updates will be posted on:

- Cibola's web page: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/cibola/>
- East Mountain Interagency Fire Protection Agency (EMIFPA): <http://emifpa.org/>
- New Mexico Fire Info: <http://nmfireinfo.com/>